

Message Text

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SUBJECT: STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR EARLE, AUGUST 9, 1978
(SALT TWO-1835)

MR. MINISTER:

- I

ON JULY 19, THE UNITED STATES PROPOSED REVISED
LANGUAGE FOR THE JOINT STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES. THE
THIRD SECTION OF THIS PROPOSAL CONTAINS AN OBJECTIVE
THAT THE PARTIES SHALL PURSUE IN THE COURSE OF SUBSEQUENT
NEGOTIATIONS FURTHER RESTRICTIONS ON STRATEGIC DEFENSES.

- II

IN THE PREAMBLE TO THE JOINT STATEMENT, THE SIDES
HAVE AGREED THAT THE STRENGTHENING OF STRATEGIC STABILITY
MEETS THE INTERESTS OF THE PARTIES AND THE INTERESTS OF
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INTERNATIONAL SECURITY. IN THIS CONNECTION THE UNITED
STATES BELIEVES THAT IN DEALING WITH MATTERS OF STRATEGIC
STABILITY THE SIDES SHOULD NOT LIMIT THEMSELVES SOLELY TO
CONSIDERATION OF STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS. WE BELIEVE
THAT THE STRATEGIC STABILITY REQUIRES NOT ONLY A BALANCE
BETWEEN THE STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS OF EACH SIDE, BUT A
BALANCE BETWEEN THEIR POTENTIAL EFFECTIVENESS WHEN

DEFENSES AGAINST THEM ARE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. WHAT MIGHT APPEAR TO BE EQUALITY IN STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS, TAKEN BY THEMSELVES, COULD IN FACT BE INEQUALITY IF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THESE ARMS IS REDUCED ASYMMETRICALLY BY OPPOSING DEFENSES.

WITH REGARD TO DEFENSES, THE SIDES HAVE PREVIOUSLY RECOGNIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF STRATEGIC DEFENSES FOR STRATEGIC STABILITY BY ADOPTING THE TREATY ON THE LIMITATION OF ANTI-BALLISTIC MISSILE SYSTEMS OF 1972. THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THAT FURTHER RESTRICTIONS IN THE AREA OF STRATEGIC DEFENSES WOULD COMPLEMENT THAT AGREEMENT AND ADD TO THE OVERALL MAINTENANCE OF STRATEGIC STABILITY. ON THE OTHER HAND, RULING OUT THE CONSIDERATION OF STRATEGIC DEFENSES WOULD IMPOSE AN UNDESIRABLE RESTRICTION ON THE SCOPE OF SUBSEQUENT NEGOTIATIONS, NARROWING THE POSSIBILITIES FOR FURTHER LIMITATIONS AND REDUCTIONS OF STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS.

- III

MR. MINISTER, THE UNITED STATES REAFFIRMS ITS PROPOSAL THAT THE PARTIES SHALL PURSUE IN THE COURSE OF SUBSEQUENT NEGOTIATIONS FURTHER RESTRICTIONS ON STRATEGIC DEFENSES AND THAT THE WORD "OFFENSIVE" BE DELETED FROM THE PHRASE "STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS" IN THE TITLE,
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PREAMBLE AND APPROPRIATE SECTIONS OF THE JOINT STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES. EARLE

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